

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Project Lead: J. Hufnagle

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: NVN 090151 ROW

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): *516 DM 11.9 E. Realty* (16) Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2012-0004-CX

Project Name: Stewart Indian School "S"

Project Description: The State of Nevada Indian Commission has applied for a 100 foot x 100 foot right-of-way (ROW) on public land in Carson City, Nevada for authorization and maintenance of the Stewart "S", a landmark letter, which currently exists on the western face of Prison Hill. The Stewart Indian School was established in 1890, just southwest of the Stewart "S". The Stewart "S" was established and first painted by the Stewart Indian School 10th grade class of 1934 and is considered by the school to be an essential historic component of the former Indian school. Issuance of a ROW will authorize the existing improvement on public land and allow for maintenance, which involves periodic repainting of the rocks that comprise the "S". No new road construction or other surface disturbance is proposed. Annual painting using approximately 15 gallons of white paint is proposed typically in the spring of the year. Painting and maintenance of the "S" is projected to take approximately 2 days each year. The Prison Hill parking area would be used as a temporary rest and supply area. Although the applicant proposed to transport supplies using OHVs (quads) on existing trails, BLM has determined that supplies would need to be hand-carried from the parking area, since this portion of the Prison Hill Recreation Area is designated as a non-motorized area. Carson City submitted a letter to BLM dated February 17, 2011, which says that the Board of Supervisors voted to concur with the issuance of a right-of-way to permit the refurbishing and painting and maintenance of the "S". They further stated the vote was taken with the knowledge that Prison Hill will be transferred to Carson City as part of the implementation of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. In follow up discussions with the City it was determined that a 5-year term for the ROW was recommended to allow the City and the applicant to negotiate future authorization terms. The applicant agreed that a 5-year term is acceptable.

Applicant Name: State of Nevada Indian Commission

Project Location: Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 15 N., R. 20 E.,
sec. 27, SW¹/₄SW¹/₄.

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 0.23 acres (ROW dimensions: 100 feet x 100 feet)

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): **Lands and Realty Administrative Actions 3.** All applicants for right-of-way grants, whether or not they are within corridors, are subject to standard approval procedures as outlined in the right-of-way regulations (43 CFR 2802)/ROW-4

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP.

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

(Specialist
review:
initial in
appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		PZ JC JH
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (archeologist)		JH
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (wildlife biologist, botanist)		PZ DT
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		JH
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (archeologist)		JH
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (botanist)		DT

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW: During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Jo Ann Hufnagle, Realty Specialist
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Niki Cutler, Hydrologist
Steve Christy, Archaeologist
Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife
Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants
Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Although BLM Sensitive Species is not described in one of the 12 extraordinary circumstances question, review of the applicability of this CX has taken them into consideration.

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

DECISION: It is my decision to implement the action, as described and approve the ROW for a 5-year term, subject to standard terms, conditions and stipulations and the following special stipulation:

The Holder shall not use motorized vehicles within the Prison Hill Recreation Area non-motorized area depicted on the map titled "Prison Hill Recreation Area", and attached to this grant as Exhibit ____.

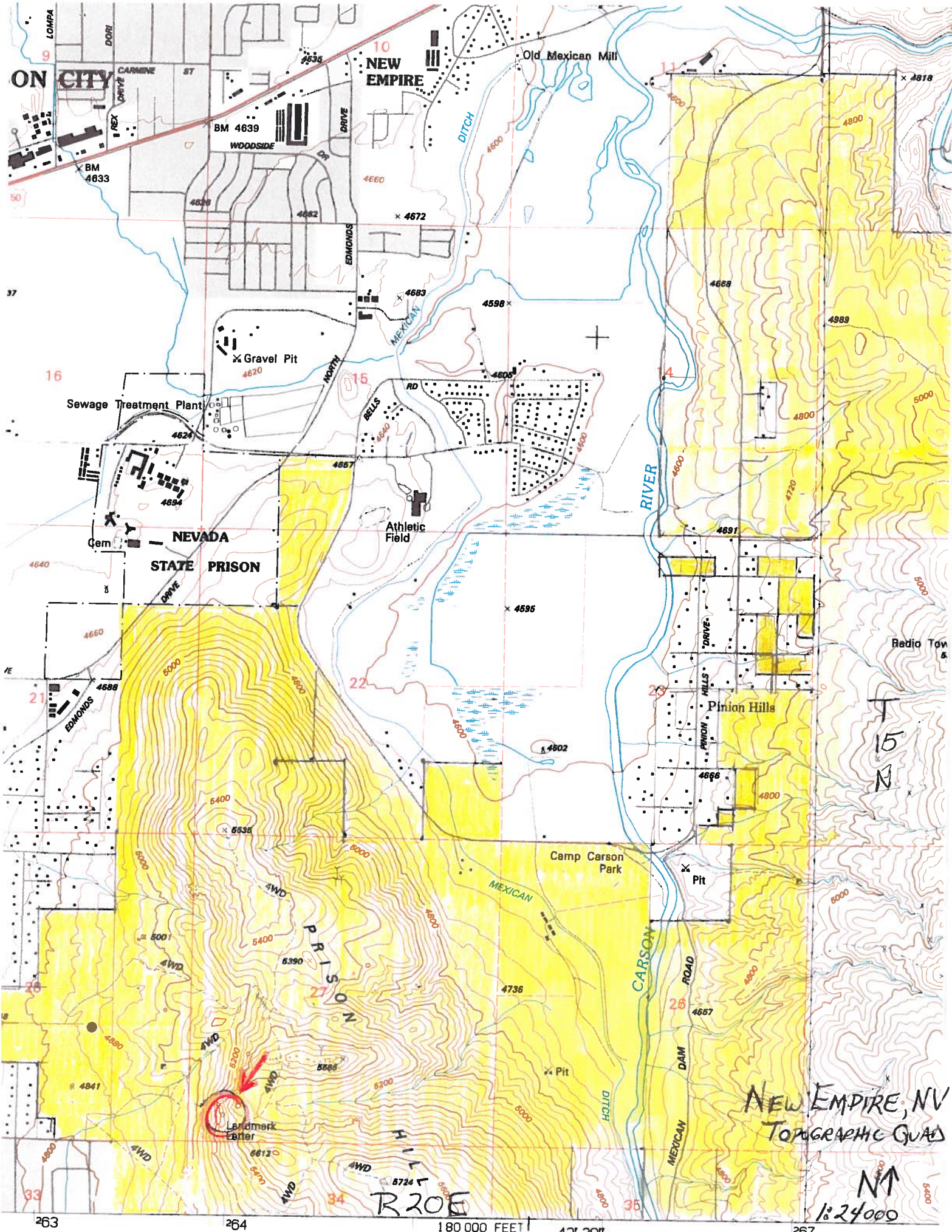
Approved by:

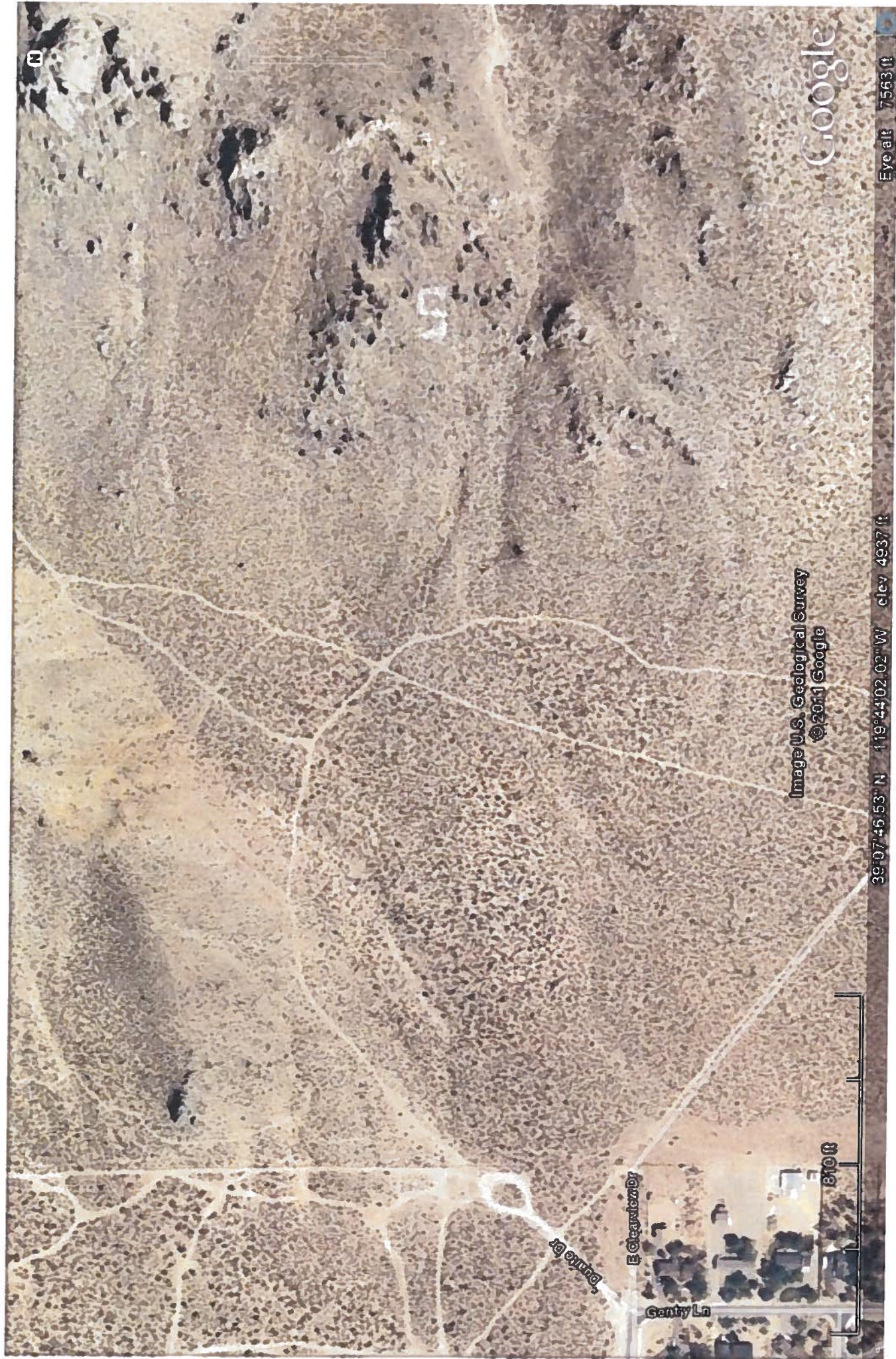


Bryan Hockett
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office



(date)





Google

Eye alt 7563 ft

Image U.S. Geological Survey
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39°07'45.53" N 119°44'02.02" W elev 4937 ft

E Clearview Dr

Gentry Ln

800 ft